

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Final Office Action of October 22, 2002 and Advisory Action dated February 6, 2003 have been received and contents carefully reviewed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3 and 7.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,008); and rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8-20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 and 15-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,038,008. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants have recently become aware that the corresponding Korean patent application (KR 96-59475) to Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,008) and the corresponding Korean patent application (KR 97-57622) to Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,060,130), which were cited in the Office Action dated 4/19/2002, were published more than one year prior to the filing date of the present application.

Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the current amendments in the pending claims, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8-20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting is now moot.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kim et al. is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "irradiating the organic passivation layer with ultraviolet rays to change the surface property of the organic passivation layer, thereby forming a hydrophilic buffer layer; and forming a pixel electrode over the hydrophilic buffer layer and in the contact hole such that the pixel electrode

contacts the drain electrode via the contact hole and such that the pixel electrode adheres to the hydrophilic buffer layer.” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, and claims 2-8, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

An example of the support of this feature can be found at page 9, lines 3-18 (“Prior to irradiating the passivation layer 45 its surface was hydrophobic, having a relatively large contact angle of about 50° to 60°. After irradiation, the external surface is that of the buffer layer 49. The surface of the buffer layer 49 has a relatively small contact angle, typically less than 10°, and thus has a hydrophilic property... a UV ray passing through the ozonized oxygen forms a molecular combination with the surface of the organic insulating film such that a buffer layer 49 having a hydrophilic property is formed...”).

Applicants respectfully submit that, while Kim et al. improves adhesion between the organic protection layer and the ITO layer by increasing the interfacial area of a rough surface (See Col. 4, lines 13-19 of Kim et al.), the present application improves adhesion by mainly changing the surface property, for example, a bonding energy structure of the surface (e.g. dangling bonds) of the passivation layer, the result of which leads to substantially decreasing contact angle of the surface.

Claim 9 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 9 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a hydrophilic buffer layer over said passivation layer, the buffer layer formed by irradiating the organic passivation layer with ultraviolet rays; and an electrode over said buffer layer.” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9, and claims 10-20 which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496 - 7500. All correspondence

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should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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